

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 20, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Tom Wellington at 6:16 p.m. on May 20, 2013. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Judy Jobes, Mary Hayes, and Willie McAdory. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise, and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission members were absent: Ebony Davis, Amy Danzer, and Bob Currie.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the Minutes of the April 22nd meeting was tabled until the June meeting.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. CASE STATUS: Joseph Aguglia reported that the HRC received a new HUD/Housing case last week. The HRC currently has approximately 34 total pending cases, the majority of which are employment discrimination cases. There was discussion about the fact that HRC covers sexual orientation as a protected class and how to get that message out. Ebony Davis will email the dates and information regarding the PRIDE Picnic and Rally events to Charlotte Scalise.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WHAT CONSTITUTES AN "EXCUSED" ABSENCE FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS? The question was posed to Commission members and several ideas were proposed – such as "no call, no show" being "unexcused," while work commitment/conflicts would be "excused." The members will think about the issue and there will be more discussion on the topic at the next meeting when more members are present.

B. OTHER EDUCATION/OUTREACH IDEAS – WHAT TO DO NEXT: Commission members in attendance discussed various ideas for education and outreach opportunities. Some viable ideas included: speak at the church where Commission member Mary Hayes is a member; speak at the church where Commission member Willie McAdory is a member; and speak to the Chamber of Commerce, Women's Roundtable, Junior League, Women's Law Project, and League of Women Voters. Commissioners are encouraged to contact the HRC office with other ideas/events as they arise.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. LINK EVENT – APRIL 23, 2013: The HRC had a display/informational table set up at the LINK Event (for the elderly and people with disabilities) at the Bayfront Convention Center on April 23, 2013. The event was free to the public and was advertised on local radio and television. Staff gave a brief presentation and individually spoke to approximately 70 people at the event.

B. OUTREACH AT THE ANTIOCH AND SHILOH CHURCHES – MAY 26, 2013:

Executive Director, Joseph Aguglia, indicated that he will be speaking at a joint church meeting (held at the Antioch Church on 21st and Sassafras Streets) on this date this month. Any Commission member interested in attending is welcome to attend.

C. HRC'S ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR – JUNE 27, 2013: This year's event will be held in the Hemingway Room of the Ambassador Hotel on Peach Street at I-90. Commission members may attend for free. Brochures should be mailed out soon.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public was present.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Motion was cast by Judy Jobes and was seconded by Willie McAdory. All were in favor. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on June 24, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by Staff, Heidi Meyer.